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REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-21 and 32-34 were indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections set forth in this Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are represented herein.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 35-38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In order to expedite an early allowance, Applicants have amended claim 35 to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, claims 35-38 are also believed to be allowable.

Applicants further submit that claim 35 should be interpreted as covering the possibility that one or more reaction products are included in the composition along with the presently claimed photoacid generator moiety, photoimageable species, and quencher. The Examiner has asserted that it is not allowed to claim an intermediate product as well as a final product in the same claim. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is not required that the reaction(s) producing the reaction products proceed to 100% conversion. Accordingly, it is entirely possible for reaction products and unconverted starting materials to coexist in the same composition.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection - Kawabe in view of Ren

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kawabe, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,846,610 ("Kawabe"), in view of Ren et al., ("Studies of Weakly Coordinating Anions Paired with Iodonium Cations", Macromolecules, vol. 35, pgs. 1632-1637 (2002)).

Applicants have amended claim 25 to recite that "*the carborane-based photoacid generator is functionalized on a carbon atom by a group that modifies a polarity of ionic carborane*".

Accordingly, claim 25 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 8/7/06

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